

Claims:

1. A beverage preparation machine for preparing a beverage
from a cartridge containing one or more beverage
5 ingredients comprising a first piercing element for
forming an inlet, in use, in a cartridge received in
the beverage preparation machine and a second piercing
element for forming an outlet, in use, in said
cartridge, characterised in that the first and second
10 piercing elements are formed as a single removable
unit.
2. A beverage preparation machine as claimed in claim 1
further comprising a fixed lower part and an upper part
15 rotatable relative to the lower part, the upper part
being moveable from an open position, in which the
upper part is disengaged from the lower part for
receiving a cartridge, and a closed position, in which
the upper part is engaged with the lower part, wherein
20 the removable unit is mounted, in use, in the fixed
lower part.
3. A beverage preparation machine as claimed in claim 2
wherein the inlet piercer and outlet piercer are
25 orientated vertically and parallel to one another.
4. A beverage preparation machine as claimed in claim 3
wherein the inlet piercer and outlet piercer are made
of plastics materials.